

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /053 W

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O R 262010Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2627

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: EARLY ELECTION REACTIONS

1. LEADERS OF FOUR COALITION PARTIES HELD TELEVISED PRESS
CONFERENCE APRIL 26 TO DISCUSS ELECTION RESULTS.
(A) COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL, CLUTCHING A CARNATION (SYMBOL OF
THE APR 25 REVOLUTION AND THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT), SPOKE
RAPIDLY AND NERVOUSLY. HE POINTED OUT THAT ELECTIONS HAD BEEN
FAIRLY CONDUCTED, THAT PCP HAD DIFFICULTIES IN CAMPAIGNING
IN THE CONSERVATIVE AREAS, AND CLAIMED PCP DID VERY WELL
CONSIDERING THAT COUNTRY HAD JUST EMERGED FROM 48 YEARS OF
REACTIONS.

(B) SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES SPOKE CALMLY, CONFIDENTLY,
AND CAREFULLY AVOIDED RUBBING IN THE SOCIALIST VICTORY. HE LAUDED
AFM AND MADE A FEW INDIRECT DIGS AT THE COMMUNISTS, NOTING FOR
EXAMPLE THAT PS DID NOT HAVE TIES WITH EITHER OF THE TWO
"IMPERIALIST" POWERS.

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(C) PPD LEADER MAGALHAES MOTA MADE BLAND PRESENTATION NOT CONCEALING HIS PLEASURE AT THE STRONG SHOWING OF HIS PARTY.

(D) MDP LEADER PEREIRA DE MOURA SAID THE PROGRAMS OF THE PARTIES WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THEIR ELECTORAL SUPPORT.

2. COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER JESUINO AND AFM MEMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CORREIA ALSO HELD WELL ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESS APRIL 26. CORREIA, A NAVAL OFFICER IN MEDICAL CORPS, SOUGHT TO BELITTLE RESULTS OF ELECTIONS, DOWNPLAYED THEIR SIGNIFICANCE, AND STRESSED THE POLITICAL IMMATURITY OF PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. JESUINO TOOK SAME LINE BUT WAS SMOOTHER. HE SAID THAT AFM HAD EXPECTED A 40 PCT BLANK VOTE, IMPLYING THIS WAS THEIR DESIRE AS WELL. BOTH INDICATED THAT COMPOSITION OF PRESENT COALITION WOULD NOT CHANGE, NOR WOULD GOVERNMENT'S BASIC POLICY LINES.

3. COMMENT: FOREIGN JOURNALISTS CAME AWAY FROM JESUINO/CORREIA PRESS CONFERENCE WITH NEGATIVE IMPRESSION. MOST VIEWED IT AS A GRACELESS PERFORMANCE.
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